

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled).
2. (Cancelled).
3. (Cancelled).
4. (Cancelled).
5. (Cancelled).
6. (Cancelled).
7. (Cancelled).
8. (Cancelled).
9. (Cancelled).
10. (Cancelled).
11. (Cancelled).
12. (Cancelled).
13. (Cancelled).

14. (New) In a network environment where messages relating to faults that occur in the network over time are stored as rows in a database having a finite amount of memory allocated for storing the messages, a fault message purge procedure comprising:

executable computer code residing in a memory that expunges a predetermined number of the rows in the database when executed, the predetermined number of rows to be expunged comprising a function of a rate at which the messages are stored in the database, a size of the rows in the database, the finite amount of memory allocated for storing the messages in the database, a period at which the computer code is executed, and a period of time for which information relating to the faults is to be retained in the database, the predetermined number of the rows to be expunged being about 45,000 where the rate at which the messages are stored in the database is about 15 per second, the size of the rows in the database is about 1.5 kilobytes, the finite amount of memory allocated for storing the messages in the databases is about 5 gigabytes, the period at which the computer code is executed is about once per hour, and the period of time for which information relating to the faults is to be retained is about 10 days.

15. (New) The procedure of claim 14 comprising additional executable computer code residing in a memory that, when executed, maintains a log file of all the messages saved to and expunged from the database.

16. (New) The procedure of claim 14 comprising additional executable computer code residing in a memory that, when executed, monitors the expunging of the messages from the database when the other executable computer code is executed to ensure that the expunging of the messages from the database functions properly.

17. (New) The procedure of claim 16 wherein the additional executable computer code further comprises instructions to re-execute the other executable computer code if the expunging of the messages from the database does not function properly.

18. (New) The procedure of claim 14 wherein the network comprises a telecommunications network.

19. (New) The procedure of claim 18 wherein the memory in which the executable computer code resides comprises a fault database.